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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0927
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 1591
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0079
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0004
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SUBJECT: TURKEY: POL-MIL ROUND-UP, July 2006

(Note: This is one of a regular series of unclassified reports on significant Turkish defense and national security issues in the press and other open sources. End note.)

Contents

- Over 10,000 Persons Evacuated from Lebanon via Turkey
- Anti-Terrorism High Council Convenes
- Commander of Turkish Land Forces Military Academy Resigns
- Turkey's Security Relations with Other Countries
- Defense Industry Activity

Over 10,000 Persons Evacuated from Lebanon via Turkey

[1](#)1. Over 10,000 individuals from Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Moldova, Germany, Canada, USA, Australia, Lebanon, France and other countries were evacuated from Lebanon via Turkey. Close to 1,700 US Citizens were flown to the US on contract aircraft out of Incirlik Air Base. The evacuation of nationals of more than 11 countries was conducted from the Mersin SeaPort, while 126 persons, including 104 Turkish nationals and 22 foreign nationals, were evacuated from Lebanon overland by bus. A total of 1,155 Turkish citizens have been evacuated from Lebanon.

Anti-Terrorism High Council Convenes

[1](#)2. Turkey's Anti-Terrorism High Council convened an extraordinary meeting under Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul on July 16 following the killing of 13 soldiers by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) terrorists in five days. Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu, Justice Minister Cemil Cicek, Jandarma Commander Gen Fevzi Turkeri, National Security Council Secretary General Yigit Alpogan, Director General of Security and undersecretaries of Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry as well as the Undersecretary of the Turkish National Intelligence Organization attended this meeting, which was only the second meeting to take place since 1997. The Council was reactivated at the request of PM Erdogan in September 2005 after an 8 year hiatus to discuss the increase of PKK terrorist attacks following the end of the PKK's unilateral ceasefire in June 2004.

Commander of Turkish Land Forces Military Academy Resigns

¶3. Maj Gen Reha Taskesen, Commander of Turkish Land Forces Military Academy, in a surprise move, resigned days before the Aug. 1-4 meeting of the Supreme Military Council to decide on the promotion, retirement and dismissal of military personnel. The press initially linked Taskesen's resignation to his friendship with Land Forces Commander GEN Buyukanit, who dodged allegations of corruption and judicial interference before being named the new Chief of the Turkish General Staff on July 31. The media initially claimed Taskesen's phones had been tapped to record his conversations with Buyukanit but later suggested the wire-tap was related to extra-marital relations. The Turkish General Staff released a statement stating only that Gen Taskesen's resignation was based on personal reasons.

Turkey's Security Relations with Other Countries

¶4. Pakistan: Pakistani CHOD General Ehsan Ul Haq visited Turkish CHOD Gen Hilmi Ozkok in Ankara on July 4. No information on the subject of their meeting was made public.

¶5. Austria: Austrian CHOD General Ronald Ertl visited Turkish CHOD Gen Ozkok in Ankara on July 10. No information on the subject of their meeting was released.

¶6. Israel: Turkey cancelled its high-level military visit to Israel in July. Deputy CHOD Gen Isik Kosaner did not attend the 'High Level Military Dialogue' meeting held in Israel on July 10-12, instead sending a Colonel to represent Turkey in the regular bilateral talks, according to the centrist daily Milliyet.

¶7. Sudan: Sudanese Defense minister General Abdel Rahim Mohammad Hussein met with his Turkish counterpart Vecdi Gonul in Ankara on July 25. Gen Hussein expressed Sudan's interest in Turkish defense

ANKARA 00004796 002 OF 002

technology, according to ANA.

¶8. Greece: In an historic visit, ending a 30-year hiatus, Greek CHOD Admiral Panagiotis Chinofotis visited Ankara on July 26 at the invitation of Gen Ozkok in Ankara. According to a TGS press release, the Chiefs of staff exchanged views on confidence-buildin measures, force commander exchanges, plans for a combined disaster relief/humanitarian aid exercise, Peace Support Operations executed by the two Armed Forces, NATO enlargement and developments in the Middle East.

Defense Industry Activity

¶9. Turkey is ranked fifth among European countries (following Britain, France, Germany and Italy) and fourth among Middle Eastern countries (following Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel) with the highest defense expenditures, according to the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

¶10. TUSAS-TAI Aerospace Industries will participate in the development and joint production of the RRJ model aircraft developed jointly by Russian Sukhoi and Italian Alenia firms, according to the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

¶11. TUSAS-TAI signed an agreement with GE Aviation within the framework of JSF (joint strike fighter) F-136's engine program, as reported by the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

¶12. Defense Industry Undersecretariat (SSM) announced an RFI (Request for Information) for the Turkish Naval Forces' Submarine Rescue Mother Ship (MOSHIP) and two Rescue Towing Ships. The deadline for requesting RFI document from SSM is September 15.

¶13. Embraer (Brazil) and KAI (Republic of Korea) submitted proposals for the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Turkish Basic Trainer Aircraft (TEU) Program announced by SSM on January 6. Raytheon withdrew from the tender, as reported by the center-right Hurriyet daily.

¶14. SSM announced a tender for the Gokturk Reconnaissance and Surveillance Satellite System. Gokturk covers procurement of 3

items: one In-Orbit Delivered Electro-Optical (EO) Reconnaissance and Satellite System, one dedicated Fixed Ground System and one dedicated Mobile Ground System. The bid submission deadline is November 3.

WILSON